

Fire on Chandler Street Leaves Garage and Bathroom in Ruin

By DANIEL DI CENSO

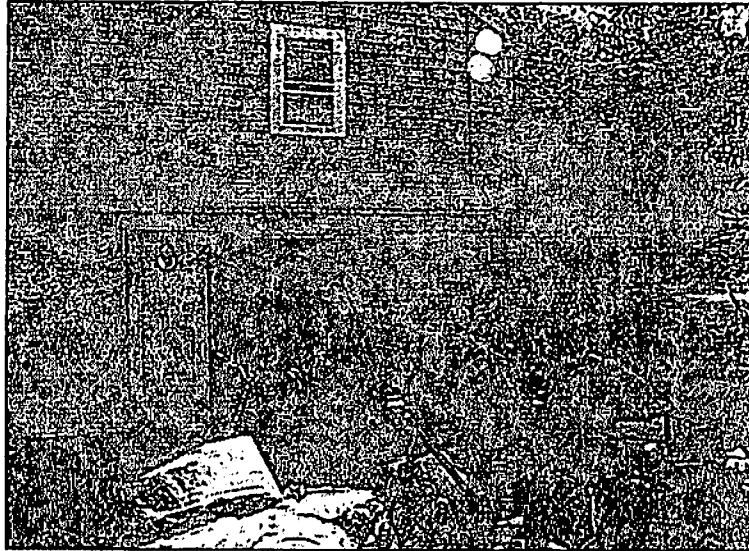
When they left for work early on Monday morning, the Caldeira family of 302 Chandler Street did not expect to return home to find their house on fire. But at 9:20 a.m., the Duxbury Fire Department received a call from Hector Caldeira reporting a fire in his garage.

"I came in around 9 in the morning," Caldeira said. "I went to get the mail, and when I was coming back towards the house I saw smoke coming out of the house and the garage. I lifted the garage door and a lot of smoke came out. There was no way I was going in there, I called 9-1-1 right away."

Caldeira got home just in time to prevent the fire from becoming an even bigger disaster, according to Deputy Fire Chief William Carrico.

"If he didn't come home when he did, even a couple of hours later, this could have been much worse," he said. "We were told it was a bathroom fire. On arrival we had a full garage fire, probably caused by an electrical malfunction. The master bathroom and the guest bathroom are pretty much destroyed."

The fire started in the



All the contents in the Caldeiras' garage was completely destroyed and had to be removed.

garage and worked its way upwards, burning through the roof and into the bathroom.

Caldeira said that his next step after calling 9-1-1 was to call his wife Katia Caldeira, who was also at work.

"My husband told me the house had caught fire; I thought he was playing with me since I didn't pick up the phone," Caldeira said. "When I heard his second message I realize he was serious, so I just started driving home."

Carrico estimated the damage to the house to be approximately \$100,000 and about \$70,000 for the property. Among the items lost was the family's prized collection



Hector Caldeira, owner of 302 Chandler Street, came home to find smoke coming out of the house.

of dirt bikes

FIRE DEPARTMENT



The fire rose from the garage into the bathroom and firefighters were forced to rip down the wall.

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Only one bike had insurance, according to Katia Caldeira. Not counting the insured one, the family lost four bikes.

"We really liked those bikes," said Caldeira.

The Caldeiras realize that they were lucky.

"This definitely brought the family closer together," said Katia Caldeira. "I called my mother in Brazil and told her what happened. Because, you know we have friends that would call her and tell her about this. Then she would think something happened to us."

Mark O'Neill, the president of Boston Emergency Service, also said the Caldeiras were lucky.

"Oh, this could have been a lot worse," he said. The Red Cross also arrived on the scene to aid the family. The Fire Department shut off the water and power, so the Caldeiras will be staying in temporary housing until they are given clearance to go back.

Carrico said he doesn't know how long the process will take.

"At least a couple of weeks," he said. "It may even be a month."